



Welcome to Wells County Highlights

2005 Edition

*Highlights of Wells County is a labor market information publication of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

This publication is provided annually for each of Indiana's 92 counties, 11 Economic Growth Regions and the State of Indiana.

Each publication includes a variety of demographic information: population, labor force estimates, industry employment, industry annual average wages, and firms and employment by size and by industry.

If you need further information about your area, you may call the regional analyst listed below. If you need labor market information for other areas, you will find a map of the regional analysts at the back of this publication and posted on our Internet website under *Resources*.

Additional labor market information is available on our Internet website.

Our website address is <http://www.in.gov/dwd/inews>

Vicki Glaze

201 East Charles Street, Suite 100

P.O. Box 1407

Muncie, Indiana 47308-1407

(765) 289-1861 extension 154

FAX: (765) 741-5856

e-mail: vglaze@dwd.in.gov

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SUMMARY OF WELLS COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS

Wells County's population estimate for 2004 was 27,963 up 1.3 percent from the 2000 Census total. During this same time period, Indiana's total 2004 estimated population of 6,237,569 was up by 2.6 percent.

According to the 2000 Census 15,513 people twenty-five years of age or over were high school graduates and/or had post-high school education. That represented 87.3 percent of the twenty-five and up county population. Of that population, 2,536 or 14.3 percent were four year college graduates or greater. In 2004, of the 363 persons graduating high school that year, 265 or 73 percent intended to go on to higher education.

A total of 2,835 workers or 17.4 percent of the workforce commuted into Wells County in 2003. Adams County was sending the most workers into the county. Conversely, 5,575 or 29.2 percent of the labor force commuted to work outside of Wells County. Allen County received the most workers from Wells County.

The estimated average unemployment rate for 2004 was 4.9 percent, below Indiana's annual average of 5.2 percent. The county's unemployment rate was based on an estimated average residential labor force of 14,840. Of that labor force 14,110 were employed and 730 were unemployed.

For the year 2004 there were 10,839 jobs at industries within the county. The largest employing industry in the county was trade, transportation and utilities with 28.9 percent of the total industry employment. Manufacturing was second at 24.7 percent.

The industry showing the most growth in workers over a three year period (since 2001) was leisure and hospitality services increasing by 97 workers or 17.2 percent above 2001. 15.5 percent of employers in the county employed 20 or more workers and those represented 79.3 percent of all employment.

The all industry average 2004 earnings for the county was \$28,749 year versus Indiana's \$34,693. The county average wage was an increase of 8.2 percent over the 2001 county industry average wage. None of Wells County's 11 industry supersectors (including government) had annual average earnings greater than the Indiana average for those industries. The county's manufacturing industry had the highest average earnings at \$39,619 per year, with construction second at \$32,172, while the industry with the lowest annual earnings number was leisure and hospitality services at \$7,858. The same industries statewide paid an average \$47,638, \$39,343, and \$13,875 per year, respectively.

POPULATION

WELLS COUNTY AND CITY POPULATION

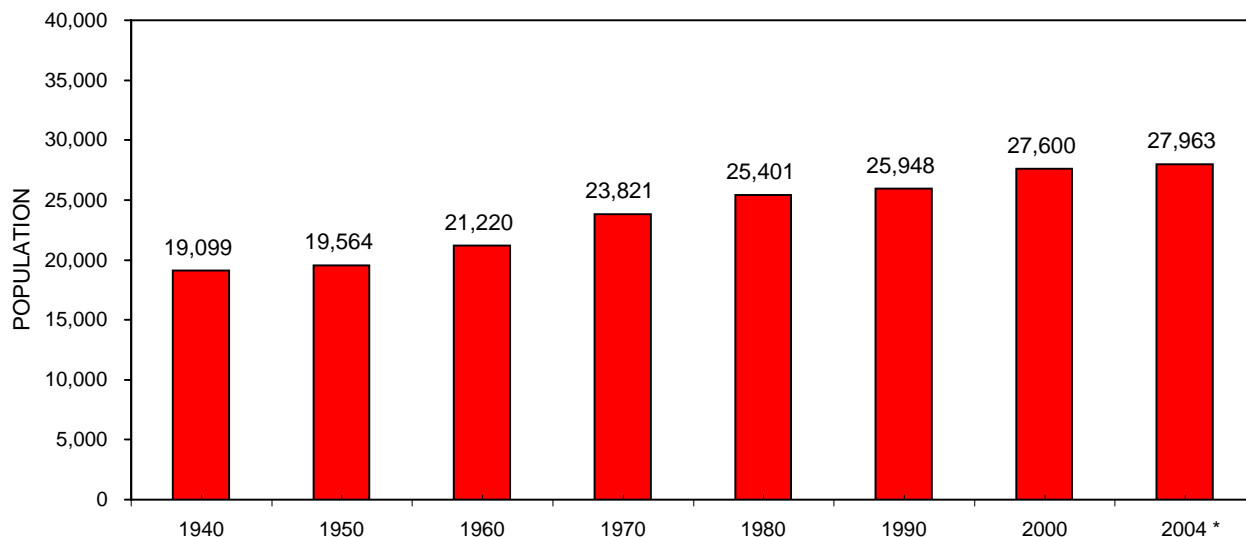
COUNTY & CITIES/TOWNS	1990 CENSUS	2000 CENSUS	2004 POPULATION ESTIMATE	NUMERICAL CHANGE FROM 2000-2004	PERCENT CHANGE FROM 2000-2004
WELLS COUNTY	25,946	27,600	27,963	363	1.3%
BLUFFTON	9,104	9,536	9,457	(79)	-0.8%
OSSIAN	2,428	2,943	2,906	(37)	-1.3%

WELLS COUNTY POPULATION

YEAR	POPULATION	NUMERICAL CHANGE	% CHANGE
1940	19,099	688	3.7%
1950	19,564	465	2.4%
1960	21,220	1,656	8.5%
1970	23,821	2,601	12.3%
1980	25,401	1,580	6.6%
1990	25,948	547	2.2%
2000	27,600	1,652	6.4%
2004 *	27,963	363	1.3%

* population estimate

WELLS COUNTY POPULATION



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 1940-1990 Census and Stats Indiana 2000 Census and 2004 Population Estimate

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

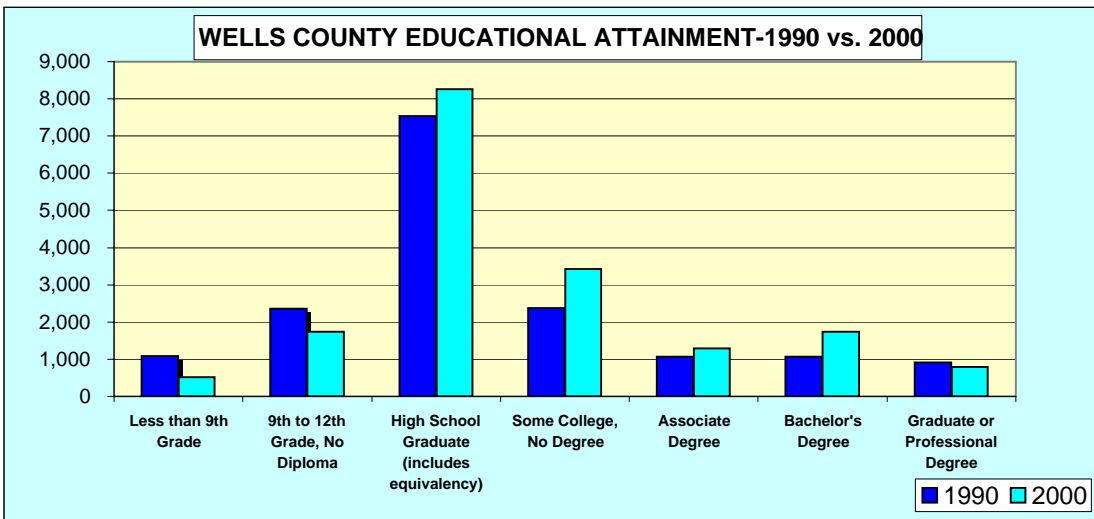
WELLS COUNTY

2004 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES HIGHER EDUCATION INTENT

EDUCATION INTENT	NUMBER	PERCENT
Graduates	363	100.0%
Total to Higher Education	265	73.0%
Four-Year Institution	197	54.3%
Two-Year Institution	15	4.1%
Vocation/Tech. Institution	53	14.6%

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT - POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER

EDUCATION LEVEL	1990	% IN 1990	2000	% IN 2000
Less than 9th Grade	1,091	6.7%	518	2.9%
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	2,352	14.3%	1,736	9.8%
High School Graduate (includes equivalency)	7,537	46.0%	8,260	46.5%
Some College, No Degree	2,372	14.5%	3,424	19.3%
Associate Degree	1,063	6.5%	1,293	7.3%
Bachelor's Degree	1,065	6.5%	1,740	9.8%
Graduate or Professional Degree	916	5.6%	796	4.5%
TOTAL - POPULATION 25 YEARS & OVER	16,396	100%	17,767	100%



Sources: Indiana Business Research Center, Stats Indiana and U.S. Census Bureau.

COMMUTING PATTERNS

WELLS COUNTY COMMUTING PATTERNS

Number of persons who live in Wells County and work (labor force)	19,070
Number of persons who live in Wells County and work in Wells County	13,495
Number of persons who live out of and work in wells County	2,835
Total number of persons who work in Wells County (work force)	16,330

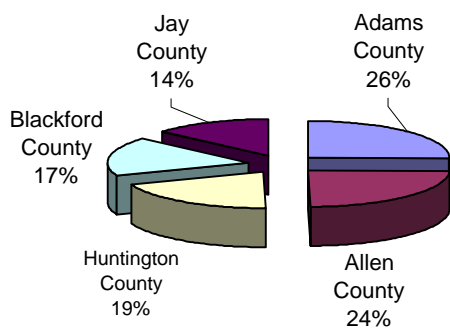
Top five counties sending workers INTO Wells County:

Adams County	636	
Allen County	618	
Huntington County	491	
Blackford County	440	
Jay County	342	
Total of above	2,527	equals 15.5% of work force

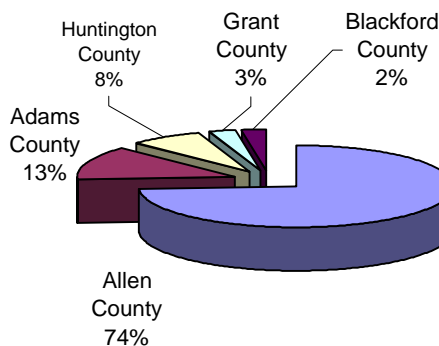
Top five counties receiving workers FROM Wells County:

Allen County	3,803	
Adams County	680	
Huntington County	391	
Grant County	141	
Blackford County	127	
Total of Above	5,142	equals 27.0% of labor force

**Top five counties sending workers
INTO Wells County:**



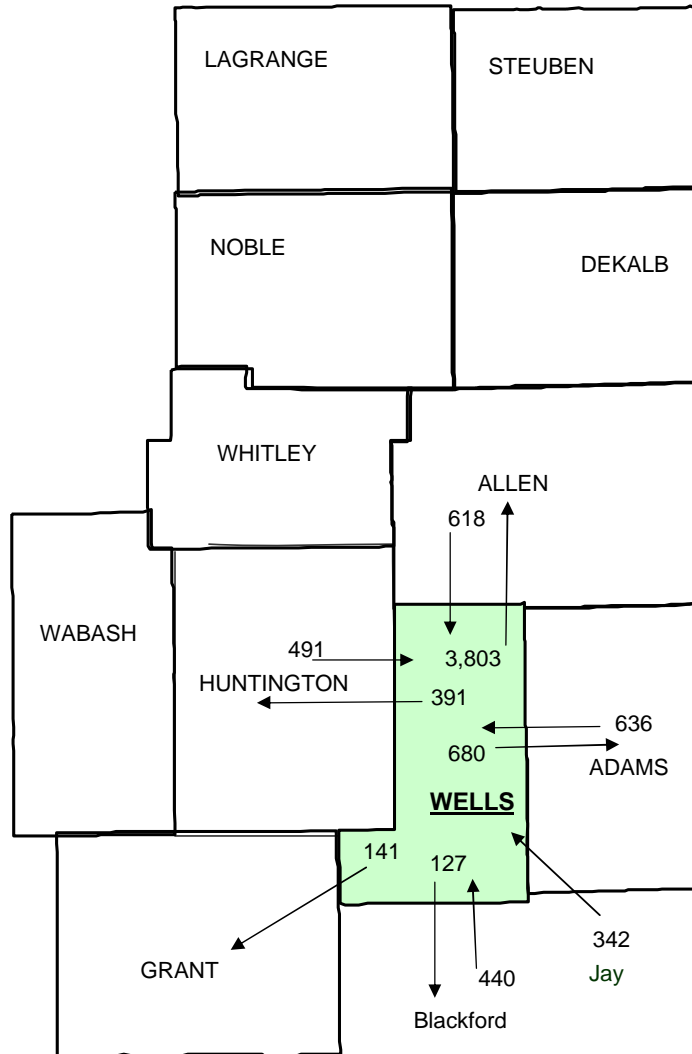
**Top five counties receiving workers
FROM Wells county:**



Data source: Indiana Dept. of Revenue -- Based on IT-40 Returns for Tax Year 2003
Report generated by STATS Indiana on Jan. 26, 2005

COMMUTING PATTERNS MAP

Wells County



Data source: Indiana Dept. of Revenue IT-40 Returns for Tax Year 2003. Report generated by STATS Indiana, January 26, 2005. Counts of under 100 are not included. Commuters to/ from IL, MI, KY, OH, WI, and PA are reported separately and are not included in the 'Out of State' category.

LABOR FORCE INFORMATION

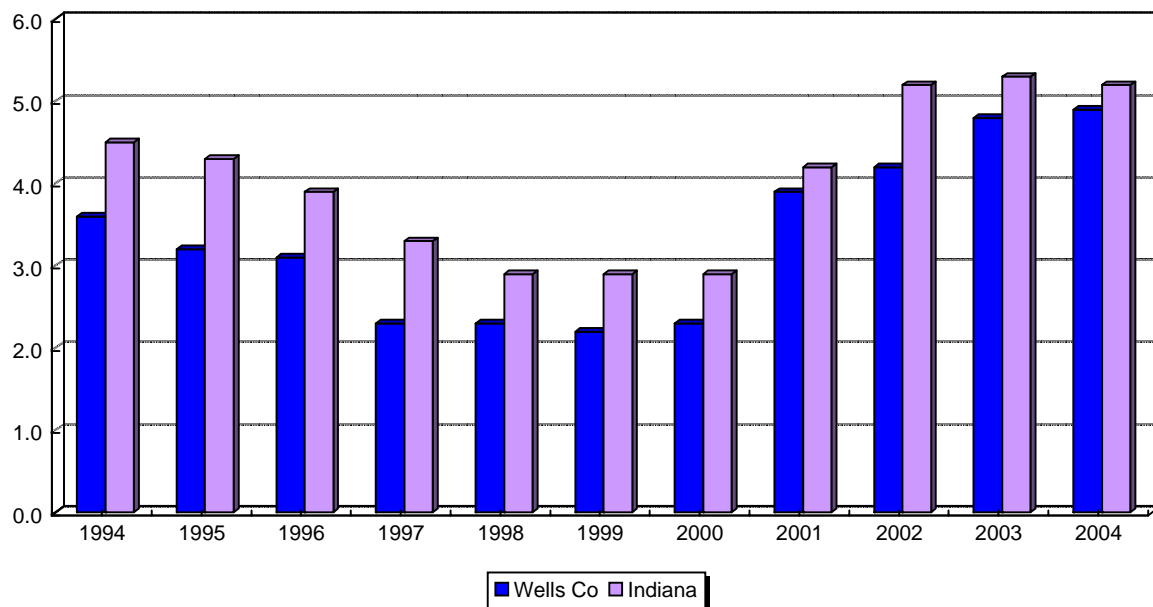
WELLS COUNTY LABOR FORCE

(1994-2004)

	LABOR FORCE	EMPLOYED	UNEMPLOYED	Wells Co RATE	Indiana RATE
1994	14,410	13,900	510	3.6	4.5
1995	14,770	14,300	470	3.2	4.3
1996	14,760	14,300	460	3.1	3.9
1997	14,890	14,550	340	2.3	3.3
1998	14,950	14,600	350	2.3	2.9
1999	14,720	14,390	330	2.2	2.9
2000	14,950	14,600	350	2.3	2.9
2001	14,820	14,250	570	3.9	4.2
2002	14,740	14,120	620	4.2	5.2
2003	14,900	14,180	720	4.8	5.3
2004	14,840	14,110	730	4.9	5.2

AVERAGE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

Wells County vs. Indiana 1994-2004



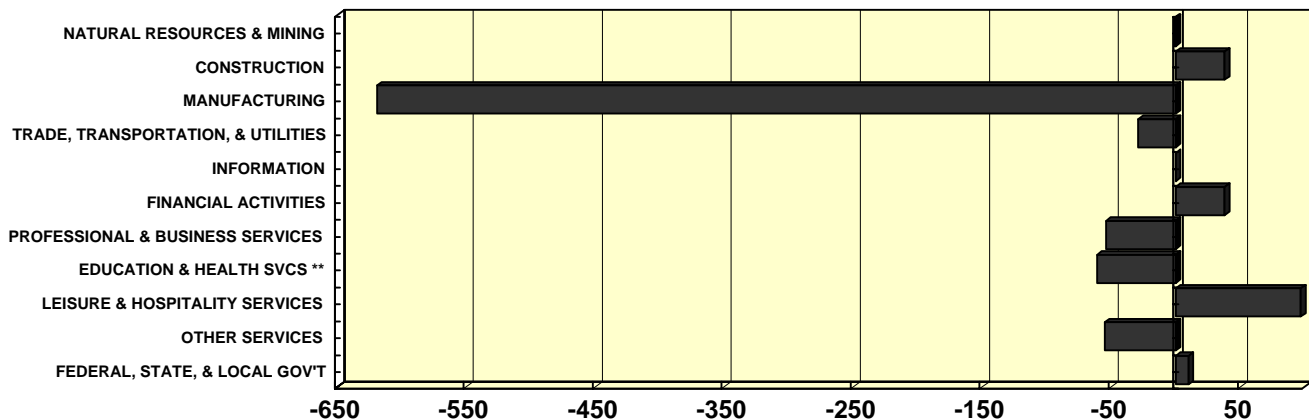
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Local Area Unemployment Statistics and U. S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Reflects new modeling approach and reestimation as of March 2005.

INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

WELLS COUNTY EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY 2001 to 2004

INDUSTRY SECTORS (NAICS)*	2004 NO. OF FIRMS	AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT				NUMERICAL CHANGE 2001-2004	PERCENT CHANGE 2001-2004
		2001	2002	2003	2004		
TOTAL EMPLOYMENT **	601	11,462	11,309	11,200	10,839	-623	-5.4%
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	19	152	156	154	151	-1	-0.7%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting		<i>confidential</i>					
Mining		<i>confidential</i>					
CONSTRUCTION	82	419	429	447	457	38	9.1%
MANUFACTURING	50	3,297	3,149	3,084	2,678	-619	-18.8%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES	161	3,166	3,091	3,116	3,137	-29	-0.9%
Wholesale Trade	44	384	343	318	343	-41	-10.7%
Retail Trade	92	1,116	1,099	1,160	1,231	115	10.3%
Transportation & Warehousing		<i>confidential</i>					
Utilities		<i>confidential</i>					
INFORMATION	11	91	95	97	91	0	0.0%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	56	241	249	251	279	38	15.8%
Finance & Insurance	34	164	178	171	193	29	17.7%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	22	77	71	80	86	9	11.7%
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	53	284	250	230	230	-54	-19.0%
Professional & Technical Services	32	136	152	169	191	55	40.4%
Management of Companies & Enterprises		<i>confidential</i>					
Administrative & Waste Services		<i>confidential</i>					
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES **	43	2,420	2,415	2,371	2,359	-61	-2.5%
Educational Services **	11	918	926	926	919	1	0.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance **	32	1,502	1,489	1,444	1,440	-62	-4.1%
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY SERVICES	41	563	644	653	660	97	17.2%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	7	54	60	68	61	7	13.0%
Accommodation & Food Services	35	509	585	585	600	91	17.9%
OTHER SERVICES	63	331	328	296	276	-55	-16.6%
FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	30	1,393	1,396	1,391	1,403	10	0.7%

Change in Wells County Industry Employment 2001 To 2004



* NAICS - North American Industry Classification System. ** Includes private and government employment in this industry.

Confidential = Data suppressed due to confidentiality restrictions.

Notes: 1. Data may not add to total due to rounding, suppression of confidential numbers, inclusion of unclassified data, and duplication of government employment numbers. 2. Industries listed are "private industry" unless otherwise noted.

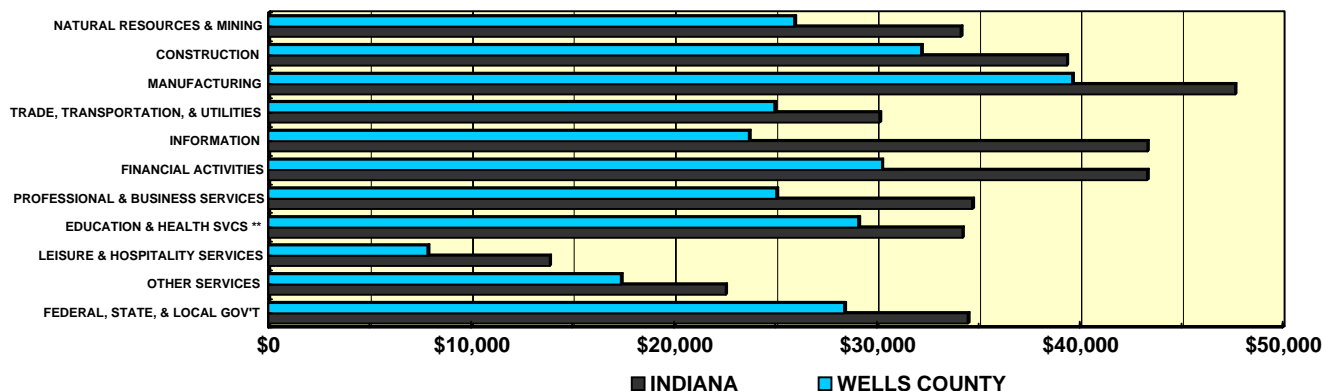
Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment

INDUSTRY EARNINGS

WELLS COUNTY EARNINGS BY INDUSTRY 2001 to 2004

INDUSTRY SECTORS (NAICS)*	WELLS COUNTY						2004	
	2001 WAGES	2002 WAGES	2003 WAGES	2004 WAGES	CHANGE 2001 to 2004 DOLLARS	PERCENT	INDIANA 2004 WAGES	WELLS % DIFFERENCE FROM INDIANA
ALL INDUSTRIES **	\$26,564	\$27,123	\$28,020	\$28,749	\$2,185	8.2%	\$34,693	-20.7%
NATURAL RESOURCES & MINING	\$28,708	\$25,604	\$26,164	\$25,932	-\$2,776	-9.7%	\$34,117	-31.6%
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, & Hunting	<i>Confidential</i>						\$25,490	
Mining	<i>Confidential</i>						\$49,836	
CONSTRUCTION	\$28,374	\$30,041	\$32,581	\$32,172	\$3,798	13.4%	\$39,343	-22.3%
MANUFACTURING	\$32,744	\$35,165	\$37,288	\$39,619	\$6,875	21.0%	\$47,638	-20.2%
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION, & UTILITIES	\$23,198	\$23,334	\$23,999	\$24,958	\$1,760	7.6%	\$30,126	-20.7%
Wholesale Trade	\$35,170	\$33,908	\$35,829	\$37,803	\$2,633	7.5%	\$46,107	-22.0%
Retail Trade	\$15,983	\$16,580	\$17,164	\$17,510	\$1,527	9.6%	\$21,445	-22.5%
Transportation & Warehousing	<i>Confidential</i>						\$35,135	
Utilities	<i>Confidential</i>						\$62,844	
INFORMATION	\$20,130	\$21,668	\$21,855	\$23,682	\$3,552	17.6%	\$43,315	-82.9%
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	\$29,418	\$31,149	\$31,528	\$30,230	\$812	2.8%	\$43,304	-43.2%
Finance & Insurance	\$28,527	\$31,111	\$32,274	\$30,737	\$2,210	7.7%	\$48,404	-57.5%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	\$31,331	\$31,245	\$29,938	\$29,088	-\$2,243	-7.2%	\$28,852	0.8%
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	\$27,186	\$25,101	\$24,812	\$25,056	-\$2,130	-7.8%	\$34,701	-38.5%
Professional & Technical Services	\$26,821	\$26,969	\$26,600	\$26,104	-\$717	-2.7%	\$45,324	-73.6%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	<i>Confidential</i>						\$66,811	
Administrative & Waste Services	<i>Confidential</i>						\$22,727	
EDUCATION & HEALTH SERVICES **	\$27,890	\$27,464	\$27,929	\$29,092	\$1,202	4.3%	\$34,206	-17.6%
Educational Services **	\$27,685	\$28,309	\$28,398	\$29,026	\$1,341	4.8%	\$33,107	-14.1%
Health Care & Social Assistance **	\$28,015	\$26,939	\$27,627	\$29,133	\$1,118	4.0%	\$34,965	-20.0%
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY SERVICES	\$7,842	\$7,560	\$7,415	\$7,858	\$16	0.2%	\$13,875	-76.6%
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	\$9,214	\$9,888	\$10,592	\$11,597	\$2,383	25.9%	\$25,802	-122.5%
Accommodation & Food Services	\$7,696	\$7,321	\$7,046	\$7,481	-\$215	-2.8%	\$11,574	-54.7%
OTHER SERVICES	\$18,881	\$19,206	\$18,088	\$17,396	-\$1,485	-7.9%	\$22,543	-29.6%
FEDERAL, STATE, & LOCAL GOVERNMENT	\$26,625	\$28,033	\$28,137	\$28,379	\$1,754	6.6%	\$34,484	-21.5%

Wells County and State of Indiana 2004 Earnings Comparison



* NAICS - North American Industry Classification System. ** Includes private and government employment in this industry.

Confidential = Data suppressed due to confidentiality restrictions.

Notes: 1. Industries listed are "private industry" unless otherwise noted. 2. Wage data are annual averages.

Source: Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Research & Analysis, Covered Employment

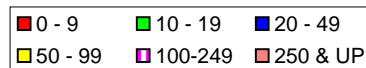
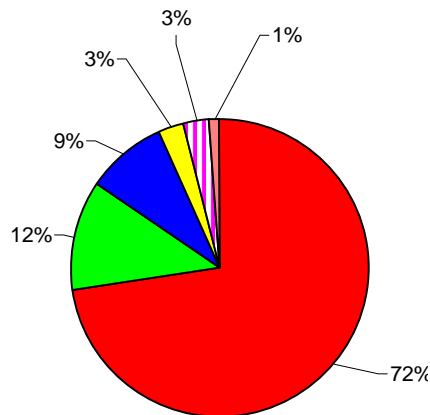
FIRMS & EMPLOYMENT by SIZE

WELLS COUNTY FIRMS and EMPLOYMENT by SIZE

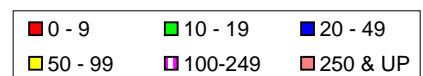
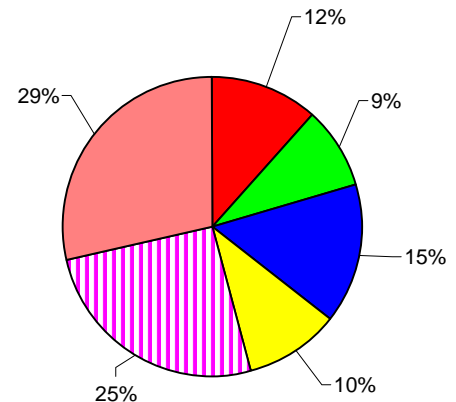
UNIT SIZE (Number Employed)	NUMBER of BUSINESS UNITS 1ST QUARTER 2004	EMPLOYMENT by BUSINESS UNIT SIZE MARCH 2004
0 - 9	443	1,281
10 - 19	74	978
20 - 49	54	1,640
50 - 99	17	1,120
100-249	18	2,782
250 & UP	6	3,138
TOTAL	612	10,939

Business Units with zero employees and Federal Government Employees are included.

BUSINESS UNITS by SIZE
1st Quarter 2004



EMPLOYMENT by BUSINESS UNIT SIZE
March 2004



SOURCE: Covered Employment, Research & Analysis, Indiana Department of Workforce Development



* * * * *

For over sixty years, industry information has been compiled using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) system. Since 1993, the industry data tables in this publication were classified by SIC.

Beginning with the 2002 issue of the Highlights report, new industry data tables are based upon the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Developed jointly by the United States, Canada and Mexico to produce comparable data, NAICS was introduced in 1997 to replace the SIC system. Because of its' scope and complexity, the transition to NAICS has taken three years to complete and is now effective beginning with 2001.

NAICS provides a more specific classification system reflecting the economy's changing industrial composition. NAICS focuses on *how* products and services are created, as opposed to the SIC focus on *what* is produced.

This reorganization has created breaks in the industrial classification time series. Even though, for example, the Manufacturing industry group is still listed, the current statistical data for Manufacturing may not be comparable to what was previously shown.

Example: An industrial machine company has its employment offices in a separate building. Those workers may now be listed in the Professional and Business Services industry under NAICS, rather than in Manufacturing. The same is possible for other industries.

NAICS uses a six digit hierarchical coding system to classify all economic activity. NAICS-United States allows for the identification of 1,170 industries compared to the 1,004 found in the SIC system. NAICS classifications are reviewed every three years. For purposes of this publication we will be classifying economic activities into 11 NAICS 'super sectors' and 15 NAICS sectors.

* * * * *

The following is a listing of the NAICS 'super sectors' we will be using:

Natural Resources & Mining includes agriculture, forestry, fishing, hunting, and mining.

Construction

Manufacturing

Trade, Transportation & Utilities includes wholesale and retail trade, utilities, transportation, and warehousing.

Information includes publishing, motion pictures, sound recording, broadcasting, Internet publishing, telecommunications, ISPs, search portals, data processing, news syndicates, libraries, and archives.

Financial Activities includes finance, insurance, real estate, and rental and leasing.

Professional & Business Services includes professional, scientific, and technical services, management of companies and enterprises, administrative/support, and waste management and remediation services.

Education & Health Services includes educational and health services, health care, and social assistance.

Leisure & Hospitality includes arts, entertainment, recreation, accommodation, and food services.

Other Services includes repair, maintenance, personal, laundry services and religious, grant making, civic, social, and professional organizations and private households.

Federal, State & Local Government includes total government employment.

Economic Growth Regions

Regional Labor Market Analysts



#1 Bruce Bendull
6224 Central Avenue
Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-2705
FAX: (219)763-3061
e-mail: bbendull@dwd.in.gov

#4 Kim Stevenson
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47808
(812)234-6602 x 327
FAX: (812) 231-0198
e-mail: kstevenson@dwd.in.gov

#7 Kim Stevenson
30 N. 8th Street
Terre Haute, IN 47808
(812)234-6602 x 327
FAX: (812) 231-0198
e-mail: kstevenson@dwd.in.gov

#8 Cathy Boatman
700 E. Walnut
Evansville, IN 47713
(812)424-4473
FAX: (812) 421-3189
e-mail:
cboatman@dwd.in.gov

#11 Cathy Boatman
700 E. Walnut
Evansville, IN 47713
(812)424-4473
FAX: (812) 421-3189
e-mail: cboatman@dwd.in.gov

#2 Bruce Bendull
6224 Central Avenue
Portage, IN 46368
(219) 762-2705
FAX: (219)763-3061
e-mail: bbendull@dwd.in.gov

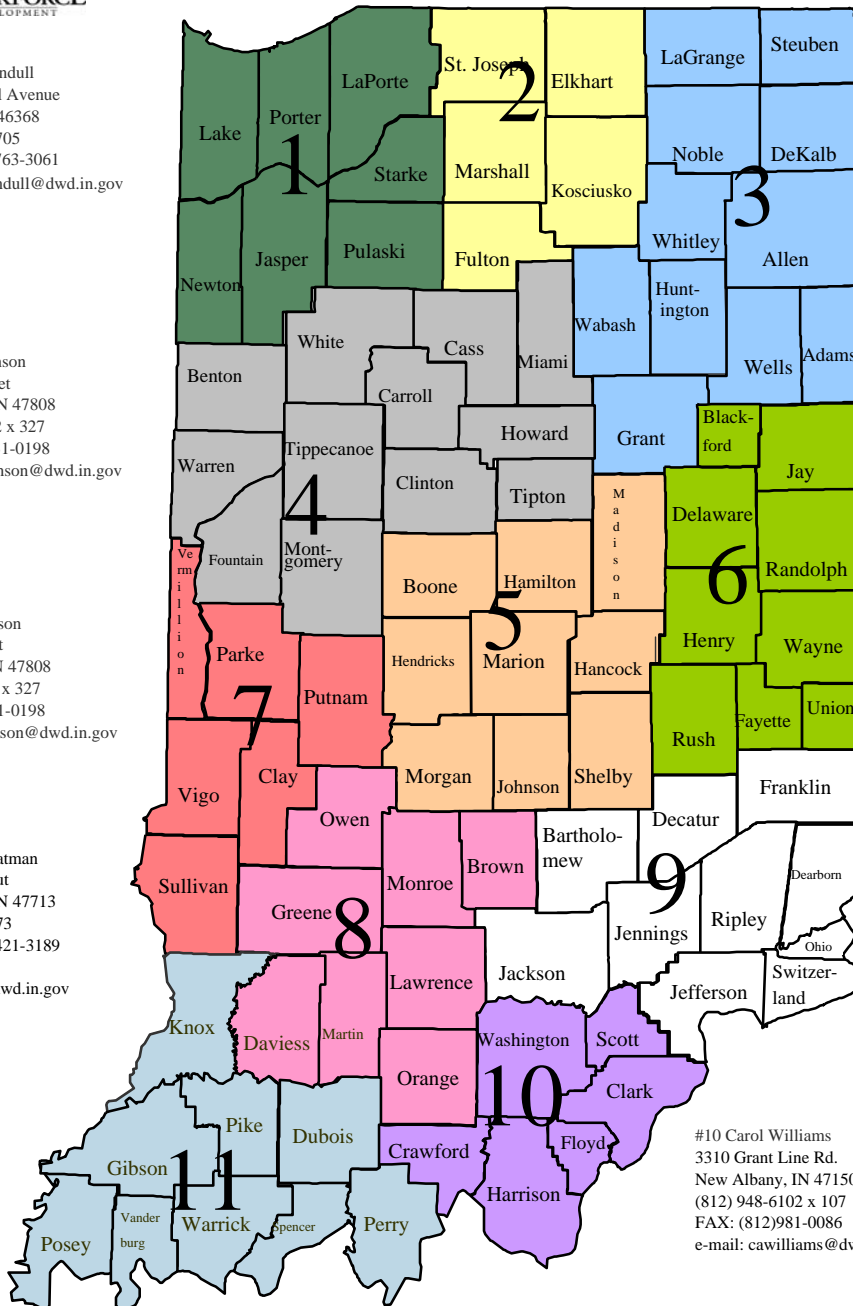
#3 Vicki Glaze
201 E. Charles Street
Muncie, IN 47305
(765)289-1861 x 154
FAX: (765) 741-5856
e-mail: vglaze@dwd.in.gov

#6 Vicki Glaze
201 E. Charles Street
Muncie, IN 47305
(765)289-1861 x 154
FAX: (765) 741-5856
e-mail: vglaze@dwd.in.gov

#5 Terry Brown
10 N. Senate Ave. Room SE 207
Indianapolis, IN 46204
(317) 232-1920
FAX: (317)232-8480
e-mail: tbrown@dwd.in.gov

#9 Carol Williams
3310 Grant Line Rd.
New Albany, IN 47150
(812) 948-6102 x 107
FAX: (812)981-0086
e-mail: cawilliams@dwd.in.gov

#10 Carol Williams
3310 Grant Line Rd.
New Albany, IN 47150
(812) 948-6102 x 107
FAX: (812)981-0086
e-mail: cawilliams@dwd.in.gov



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